

Message Text

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SUBJECT: MUSLIM BROTHERHOOD-- NEW SUPREME GUIDE?

1. DURING SADAT'S MARCH 14 SPEECH, HE MADE REFERENCE TO HIS AND NASSER'S INSISTENCE IN 1952 THAT MUSLIM BROTHERHOOD NOT DOMINATE FREE OFFICER MOVEMENT, SINCE ARMED FORCES BELONG TO ALL THE PEOPLE NOT TO ONLY CERTAIN FACTIONS.

2. WHILE ASSUMPTION THAT PRINCIPAL THREAT TO SADAT GOVT EXISTS ON THE LEFT AMONG WORKER/STUDENT ELEMENTS RESPONSIVE TO COMMUNIST SUBVERSION, IT MUST BE REMEMBERED THE POTENTIAL THREAT TO GOE STABILITY CAN ALSO BE GENERATED ON THE MUSLIM RIGHT, GIVEN APPROPRIATE CIRCUMSTANCES. MOREOVER, POSSIBILITY OF COMBINATION OF LEFTIST PROVOCATEURS AND STIRRED-UP FUNDAMENTALIST MUSLIMS IS NOT TO BE DISCOUNTED AS POSSIBLE SOURCE OF TROUBLE FOR SADAT REGIME. THIS IS WHAT HAPPENED IN APRIL, 1974, WHEN LEFTIST AGITATORS RECRUITED YOUNG CONSERVATIVE MUSLIMS TO OVERTHROW SADAT AFTER TAKING OVER CAIO'S MILITARY TECHNICAL ACADEMY. FOR THIS REASON, THEREFORE, WE TAKE SADAT'S DECISION TO REFER TO BROTHERHOOD
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IN THIS MAJOR SPEECH AS CAREFULLY CALCULATED WARNING TO RIGHT, AND TO LEFT AS WELL.

3. IT IS POSSIBLE THAT SADAT WAS MOVED TO MAKE HIS REFERENCE TO BROTHERHOOD BY STORIES CIRCULATING IN CAIRO THAT NEW SUPREME GUIDE WILL BE APPOINTED TO REPLACE HUDAYBA, WHO DIED SEVERAL MONTHS AGO. ROSE AL-YUSUF MARCH 15 CLAIMS SOME OF THE BROTHERS ARE NOW EXERTING CONSIDERABLE EFFORT TO REGAIN OFFICIAL RECOGNITION AND TO RESUME ACTIVITIES AS RELIGIOUS SOCIETY. ROSE AL-YUSUF SAYS GROUNDS FOR THESE EFFORTS WILL BE THAT 1954 LAW BANNING FORMATION OF PARTIES DID NOT PROHIBIT FORMATION OF SOCIETIES, "ESPECIALLY IF THEY ARE RELIGIOUS."

4. MININFO'S HOUSE ORGAN "RADIO AND TELEVISION" "LEARNED" THERE IS MOVE AFOOT TO APPOINT NEW SUPREME GUIDE AND THAT BROTHERHOOD WILL BE ALLOWED TO ISSUE PERIODICAL. MAGAZINE CLAIMS THERE ARE THREE CANDIDATES FOR TOP JOB IN BROTHERHOOD: SALAH ABU RAFIQ, WHO HAS WORKED FOR BROTHERHOOD SECRETARIAT FOR MANY YEARS AND ON WHOM NASSER CALLED DAY BEFORE 1952 REVOLUTION TO SOLICIT SUPPORT; OTHER TWO FRONT RUNNERS ARE REPORTEDLY FORMER VP HUSAIN AL-SHAFA'I AND KAMAL AL-DIN HUSAIN, BOTH FORMER ARMY OFFICERS AND FORMER RCC MEMBERS. SHAFI' LOST HIS JOB AS VP BECAUSE HE WAS CRITICIZING SADAT IN MOSQUES FOR ALLEGEDLY ADVOCATING STATE TOO SECULAR FOR SHAFI'S' TASTE. KAMAL HAS ALSO BEEN CRITICIZING THE PRESIDENT IN PUBLIC AND IN PRIVATE FOR SELLING OUT THE PRINCIPLES OF THE 1952 REVOLUTION. BOTH SHAFI' AND HUSAIN ARE PRESUMABLY UNACCEPTABLE TO SADAT. EILTS

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